

**LEGISLATIVE SERVICES AGENCY
OFFICE OF FISCAL AND MANAGEMENT ANALYSIS**

301 State House
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FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

LS 7993

BILL NUMBER: SB 512

DATE PREPARED: Jan 14, 2001

BILL AMENDED:

SUBJECT: Counseling for certain students.

FISCAL ANALYST: David Hoppmann

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FUNDS AFFECTED: **GENERAL
DEDICATED
FEDERAL**

IMPACT: Local

Summary of Legislation: This bill provides that a student who would otherwise be expelled for the possession of a firearm, deadly weapon, or controlled substance may participate in a counseling program for the student and the student's parents. It provides that the counseling program may be provided by a religious organization. It provides that if the student participates in a program, the student may be suspended for not more than ten school days for the action for which the student would otherwise have been expelled.

Effective Date: July 1, 2001.

Explanation of State Expenditures:

Explanation of State Revenues:

Explanation of Local Expenditures: Schools could experience an increase in administrative time regarding school principals (or their designees) attending student counseling sessions approved by the principal. The specific effects would vary from school corporation to school corporation, and would depend upon the number of parents requesting counseling for students expelled for the possession of a firearm, deadly weapon, or controlled substance.

School corporations would not be required to pay for counseling sessions, nor would they be required to provide counseling staff. However, it is likely that school counselors would attend sessions as designees of school principals if a counseling program were approved.

Firearms and Deadly Weapons- Under current Indiana law, school corporation superintendents are required to expel students who bring a firearm or deadly weapon to school for not less than one calendar year. (Superintendents may modify, on a case-by-case basis, the period of expulsion.) In accordance with this bill, students who bring firearms or deadly weapons to school would be expelled for not more than ten school

days provided that they participate in a joint counseling program with the student's parents, principal and a social worker.

The following table illustrates the number of Indiana deadly weapon/firearms public school expulsions for the 1998-1999 school year.

1998-1999 Indiana Public School Expulsions for Deadly Weapons/Firearms by Grade														
	KG	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	Total
Deadly Weapons (other than firearms)	1	3	4	11	8	17	44	63	58	78	50	41	35	413
Handguns					1	4	2	4	11	18	12	6	12	70
Rifles or Shotguns							1		5	1		5	2	14
Other Firearms				1			1	2	3	3	5	1	2	18
Totals	1	3	4	12	9	21	48	69	77	100	67	53	51	515

Explanation of Local Revenues:

State Agencies Affected:

Local Agencies Affected: School Corporations.

Information Sources: DOE ORACLE Data Tables.